SPARK GAP

Vol. 42, Issue 3, March 2025 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

Remember the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is meeting at the Johnson County REMC Community room at 8:00AM. The Johnson County REMC is located at 750 International Drive in Franklin. You do not have to be a member to attend meetings and you are also encouraged to bring friend with you.

Hope to see you all this Saturday morning.

Call for *QST* Articles for the July 2025 Special Issue on EmComm

Every July, *QST*, the membership journal of ARRL, publishes a special issue with an EmComm focus. This issue is a perfect opportunity for your ARES group to share your experiences doing exercises and drills, as well as participating in responses, so other groups will benefit from your experience. Here's what *QST* is looking for:

- 1,200 to 1,800 words — Tell the story of your participation in an exercise or response with a "how-to" angle. For example, if your club designed an exercise, talk about the rationale that led to the choice of the exercise scenario and parameters.
- 2-5 high-resolution images — Include captions that explain what's happening in the photos, the names and call signs of any hams pictured, and the name (and call sign, if applicable) of the person who took each photo.
- Send the manuscript and photos to qst@arrl.org by May 1.

Weather Ops-ervations

by KC9NJM

The week of March 9-15, 2025 has been proclaimed by Governor Braun as Severe Weather Preparedness Week for the state of Indiana. This annual event comes just prior to spring and helps us to ready ourselves for the potentials of severe thunderstorms, damaging winds, tornadoes, flooding, and other forms of significant weather.

The Indianapolis Office of the National Weather Service has designated a topic of focus for each of the days of the week and will be posting information on those topics to their social media platforms, Facebook and X (@nwsindianapolis), as well as at https://www.weather.gov/ind/SevereWxWeek. All of us are encouraged to read through the materials presented to make sure that we and are families are as prepared as possible should severe weather strike. Information about putting together a basic disaster supplies kit can be found at https://www.ready.gov/kit. It is also a time for all of us hams to make sure that our radios, antennas, batteries, peripherals, and "go-kits" are ready in case we are called out to serve during Skywarn or other activations.

As most of you have probably heard by now, the NWS Indianapolis office has had to cancel all of its in-person storm spotter trainings for this season. As a replacement for those sessions they will be offering online virtual trainings. At the time of this writing, here are the dates and times that they have scheduled.

- Wednesday, April 2 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 8 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 28 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 8 6:00 p.m.

Registration is required for these sessions and can be completed at the link for each event at https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter_talks.

The White River Branch of the Johnson County Library system has scheduled an in-person storm spotter training program on March 25, 2025, 6:00-7:30 p.m. The class will be offered by Joseph Cooper, meteorologist and founder of Thermodynamic Solutions, LLC, (TDS Weather), a private forecasting service for individuals and businesses. The session is free and open to the public, but registration is required either online at PageAfter-Page.org/events or by calling 317-885-1330. The White River Branch is located at 1664 Library Blvd. In Greenwood.

Resources: NWS Indianapolis, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Daily Journal

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

KC9WLR --- Mike Rose
KB9LOT --- Dave Daily
N9LC --- Steve Brown
W9NMM --- Noel Mortier
KD9TIO --- Gary Emmon
K9FRO --- Jeffrey Erdman

Grouper is more than a fish and if you are on Medicare it can enhance your HAM radio experience. You need to check this out if you are not enrolled.

What is Grouper™?

Grouper is leading a movement that encourages healthy living through meaningful social connections and shared experiences. Grouper™ provides eligible members with no cost access to our network of group activities. Join today!

Why Grouper™?

Grouper™ recognizes what medical and social research have now well documented: building and maintaining social connections become more difficult as we age. We believe that group activities are an important part of the solution, and we are committed to bringing people together and strengthening social connections. Simply put, group activities lead to longer and healthier lives.

How Does Grouper™ Work? Sign Up and Get:

- No cost access to our network of group activities;
- A comprehensive group directory to help you find activities you may love close to home; and
- Camaraderie and community with others who share your passion!

How Do I Know If I am Eligible?

It's easy! Simply sign up on our website. We check your eligibility with your health plan and will notify you of your status. Eligible? Great! Get started right away. Not eligible? That's OK. Check back in with us again soon. The number of health plan partners we work with is continuously expanding.

What Information Will I Need to Share to Check Eligibility?

- Basic contact information (My first name, last name, date of birth, and zip code)
- In some cases, we might ask for your group membership number if you are already part of a group or club

Tell Us About Your Group Activity.

Confirming your group activity is important and simple – it helps reinforce the importance of community and it keeps you motivated to continue participating in group activities. Plus, staying engaged in group activities supports your overall health and well-being, making it easier to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

Each month, we will remind you to log onto your account and tell us about your ongoing in-person participation. Participating in group activities may include things like being part of group events and tournaments that improve your physical and/or cognitive health.

Is My Privacy Protected?

Yes. Your information is not sold. We only share your information as explained in our , as well as our.

Is Grouper™ an Insurance Company?

No. We are not a health insurance company, and we do not sell health insurance to members. Our program is available to eligible members through their health insurance plans.

Who Do I Contact if I Need Help Signing Up or Have Questions?

Our friendly Member Support Team is here to help! Give them a call at 833-445-2400 or email them at info@hellogrouper.com.

**** I received a check for $ 50.00 this past week for just enrolling. Anything you do with MARC activities counts and checking into the Grouper site is very easy to report your activity. .... ed.*

Dayton Hamvention 2025 Award Winners Announced

The recipients of the 2025 Dayton Hamvention® Awards were announced on March 11, 2025. “The selection process was highly competitive, given the outstanding quality of nominations submitted this year. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners for 2025,” said Dayton Hamvention Awards Chair Michael Kalter, W8CI.

Technical Achievement Award: Dr. Kristina Collins, KD8OXT

Dr. Kristina Collins, KD8OXT, serves as the Chief Operations Scientist for the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) Personal Space Weather Station Network. In this role, she collaborates with citizen scientists to pinpoint significant events, organize campaigns, and ensure PSWS data is validated and curated for scientific purposes. Listeners can hear her voice on WWV at 8 minutes past the hour and WWVH at 48 minutes past the hour, where she introduces the test signal for the WWV/H Scientific Modulation Working Group.

Dr. Collins has been instrumental in organizing numerous workshops through HamSCI and has guided many undergraduate and graduate students in radio science projects, including instrument deployments, eclipse campaigns, and data analysis. She is a dedicated member of the Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU, working alongside her colleagues to integrate amateur radio into university teaching and research.

At the Space Science Institute, Dr. Collins employs virtual reality and sonification in her research to explore geospace and other interdisciplinary scientific questions. Her primary research interests lie in using open-source hardware and software to enhance participation and accelerate progress in science and engineering.

Special Achievement: Julio Ripoll, WD4R

Julio Ripoll, WD4R, received his first amateur radio license in 1977. His fascination with hurricanes began in childhood, sparked when Hurricane Betsy in 1965 damaged his family's home in Miami, Florida, causing water to pour into his bedroom. In 1980, Dr. Neal Frank, then director of the National Hurricane Center (NHC), requested an amateur radio station within the NHC to facilitate communication with the Caribbean during hurricanes. Julio was chosen for this important task. W4EHW (now WX4NHC) handled its first hurricane that year, and Julio's initial two-year assignment with the NHC has since extended to 45 years, covering over 100 hurricanes.

In 2010, shortly after the Haiti earthquake, Ripoll was tasked with setting up and managing operations between the University of Miami (UM) Hospital in Florida and the UM field hospital in Haiti. He swiftly coordinated with US and Haitian officials, organizing a team of amateur radio operators from across the US to run HH2/WX4NHC in Haiti. Beyond the field hospital, the team provided vital communication links to the US Navy hospital ship Comfort, facilitating helicopter and speed-boat patient transfers that saved many lives. Julio and his team's use of amateur radio in public service demonstrated significant merit, earning high regard for amateur radio capabilities.

Club of the Year: RV Radio Network (RVRN)

The RVRN's roots date back over 40 years to a chapter of the Texas Good Sam Club, which included a few ham radio operators. These hams started a net that drew in other Good Sam RVers from neighboring states, leading to gatherings at campgrounds where their fellow net members lived. The net quickly outgrew the Texas chapter, gaining members nationwide, and thus, the RV Radio Network (RVRN) was born. Today, RVRN boasts over 450 members.

From the beginning, the club organized activities that not only expanded knowledge of ham radio and related technology, but also allowed for the enjoyment of recreational vehicle (RV) travel and meeting fellow hams and RVers across the country.

They stay connected through various ham radio nets and meet in person whenever possible. They have 10 different HF nets each week, along with a weekly international EchoLink multi-mode net and a video net over the internet.

There are two major rallies a year featuring educational forums and seminars, tours of RV radio equipment, and antenna configurations. If there's an interesting industry nearby, they might invite a guest speaker to share insights about their operations. And, of course, they enjoy the social events and entertainment common to typical RV rallies.

Amateur of the Year: Neil Rapp, WB9VPG

Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, from Union, Kentucky, earned his Novice ticket in 1976 at the remarkable age of 5, making him one of the youngest licensed amateur radio operators ever.

Currently a visiting professor of chemistry at Xavier University, Rapp has a rich history in education. He previously taught chemistry and sponsored amateur radio clubs for 28 years at two high schools in Indiana, introducing over 3,600 students to amateur radio.

In 2019, Rapp co-founded and became the camp director of Youth On The Air (YOTA) Americas, which connects young amateurs with peers through activities that encourage their continued involvement in amateur radio. YOTA groups organize peer-led activities, such as summer camps, contesting opportunities, and special events for licensed amateur radio operators under the age of 26.

Rapp's contributions to the amateur radio community extend further. He is a contributing editor of the Next-Gen Contesters column in the *National Contest Journal*, a member of the ARISS USA Education Committee, a reporter and anchor for *Amateur Radio Newsline*, and the founder and former host of the *Ham Talk Live!* webcast.

The 2025 Dayton Hamvention® will be held Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18, 2025, at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center, 210 Fairground Road, Xenia, Ohio.

..... *ARRL News March 2025*

2025 Hamfests List

03/22/2025 WVARA Hamfest

- Location: Brazil, IN
- Address: Clay County Fairgrounds
- 6550 N SR 59
- Brazil, IN
- Talk-In 146.685- 151.4PL
- Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA
- Website: W9UUU.org

04/26/2025 - NCI HAMFEST

- `NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE!`
- Location: Peru, IN
- Address: Miami County Fairgrounds
- 1029 W 200 N
- Peru, IN 46970
- Talk-In: 147.345+ 131.8PL
- Sponsor:
- Website: https://www.ncihamfest.com/

05/16-18/2025 - Dayton Hamvention

- Location: Dayton, OH
- Address: Greene County Expo Center

- 120 Fairground Rd
- Xenia, OH 45385
- Talk-In: 146.94- 123.0 PL
- Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association
- Website: https://hamvention.org/

07/19/2025 - Auburn Hamfest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`
- Location: Auburn, IN
- Address: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum
- 1600 Wayne Street
- Auburn, IN 46706
- Talk-In: 147.015+ 141.3pl
- Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association
- Website: http://w9ou.org

07/20/2025 - Van Wert Hamfest

- Location: Van Wert, OH
- Address: Van Wert County Fairground
- 1055 S. Washington Street
- Van Wert, OH 45891
- Talk-In: 146.850-
- Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club
- Website: http://w8fy.org

07/26/2025 - East Central Indiana HAMFEST

- Location : Jay County Fairgrounds Portland, IN
- Address: 806 E Votaw St
- Portland, Indiana 47375
- Talk-In: 147.300+ 127.3pl
- Website: ECIHamfest

08/02/2025 - Elkhart East Hamfest

- Location: Elkhart, IN
- Address: Northern Indiana Event Center’s Orthwein Pavilion
- 21565 Executive Pkwy
- Elkhart, IN 46514
- Talk-In: 147.330+ PL 131.8
- Sponsor:
- Website: https://elkharteasthamfest.com/

08/09/2025 - Cincinnati Hamfest

- Location: Owensville, OH
- Address: Clermont County Fairgrounds
- 1000 Locust St.
- Owensville, OH 45160
- Talk-In: 147.345+ PL 123.0
- Sponsor: Milford ARC
- Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org

08/09/2025 - Hendricks County Tailgate Fest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`

- Location: Avon, IN
- Address: Avon United Methodist Church
- 6850 E. US Hwy 36
- Avon, IN 46123
- Talk-In: 145.130- PL88.5
- Sponsor: Ham Emergency Radio Operations

08/10/2025 - ARANCI Hamfest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`

- Location: Lake Village, IN
- Address: Lake Village Community Center
- 9728 North 300 West
- Lake Village, IN 46349
- Talk-In: 145.330- pl 131.8
- Sponsor: ARANCI

10/11/2025 - Hoosier Hills Hamfest

- Location: Bedford, IN
- Address: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds
- 11265 US-50
- Bedford, IN 47421
- Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2

- Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club
- Website: https://hoosierhillshamfest.com

10/18/2025 - Shelbyville Tailgate

- `NEEDS Confirmed`
- Location: Shelbyville, IN
- Address: Shelby County Fairgrounds
- 500 Frank St
- Shelbyville, IN 46176
- Talk-In: 145.48- 88.5pl
- Website: https://brvars.com/

11/15-16/2025 - Ft Wayne Hamfest

- `NEEDS Confirmed`
- Location: Fort Wayne, IN
- Address: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
- 4000 Parnell Ave
- Fort Wayne, IN 46805
- Talk-In: 146.88-
- Website: http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm

11/29/2025 WVARA Turkeyfest

- Location: Brazil, IN
- Address: Clay County Fairgrounds

- 6550 N SR 59
- Brazil, IN
- Talk-In 146.685- 151.4PL
- Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA
- Website: W9UUU.org

CLUB DUES FOR 2025

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is $25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2025.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

New Drake TR5 Transceiver
far above average!
COMING SOON:
RV75 Synthesized VFO
featuring the Drake "VRTO"
With the new TR5
versatility and value are spelled D-R-A-K-E . . .
DYNAMIC RANGE
The dynamic range of the TR5 is unexcelled by any transceiver in its class. The TR5's greater than 0 dBm third order intercept point (85 dB two-tone dynamic range) at 20 kHz spacing can be achieved only by the use of a passive diode-ring double balanced mixer. Drake was the first to bring this technology to the Amateur market with a high-level mixer in the TR7.
RELIABLE SERVICE
When you purchase a TR5, or any Drake product, you acquire a product of the latest production techniques, which provide reliable performance.
Yet with a product as sophisticated as one of today's transceivers, after-sales service is a must. Ask any Drake owner. Our Customer Service Department has a reputation second to none.
ACCESSORIES
Drake is the only Amateur Radio manufacturer who offers a full complement of accessories to satisfy almost every desire the HF Amateur may have. This wide selection allows any operator to assemble a station which meets his needs, and assures compatible interfacing and styling instead of a desk full of equipment with a variety of styling and poor operation as a system.
KILOWATT AMPLIFIER
Everyone wants to be heard! The accessory L75 and its 3-500Z (1200 watts PEP input) and a decent antenna will do the trick. This rugged self-contained amplifier / power supply will put the TR5 on an even footing with the best of them.
ENGINEERING
The TR5 and all Drake Transceivers, are backed by the best in engineering. The TR5 is the result of an extensive engineering effort, combining proven past techniques and ideas with new state of the art concepts.
As a result, the TR5 will not be superceded by a new model every six months. It represents a true radio communications value that will provide many years of operating enjoyment.
See your Drake dealer or write for additional information.
R. L. DRAKE COMPANY
DRAKE

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:
Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Art Bleicher – WB9CHR
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143
Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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